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**Cc:** Manzanilla, Enrique[Manzanilla.Enrique@epa.gov]; Allen, HarryL[Allen.HarryL@epa.gov]  
**From:** Gray, David  
**Sent:** Mon 8/10/2015 4:55:26 PM  
**Subject:** Region 6 update - GKM Response

## EPA Region 6 Summary – Monday, August 10

In New Mexico, EPA has a team of two federal on-scene coordinators, two water quality experts and ten technicians and contractors responding to the spill as it reaches communities in the state. Additional personnel are arriving in Farmington and will total 26 employees and contractors by the end of the day. Staffing is expected to continue to grow to support outreach and door-to-door canvassing. EPA mobile command center has arrived in Farmington and will be fully operational later today. EPA is also co-locating personnel with NMED in Santa Fe to enhance planning and communication between the agencies.

EPA is continuing collecting water quality samples from nine locations in the river near intakes for Aztec, Farmington, Lower Valley Water Users Association, Morning Star Water Supply System and the North Star Water User Association. Each of these locations will continue to be monitored as the spill makes its way past these areas. EPA has two dedicated water quality experts available in New Mexico to assist the five drinking water systems.

Working with San Juan County, NM officials, EPA is providing alternative water supply for livestock in New Mexico.

EPA and New Mexico Environment Department are providing free water quality testing for domestic drinking water wells along the river. Teams of qualified technicians are going door-to-door to collect samples for laboratory analysis.

At 7 pm on Sunday, August 9, the New Mexico Environment Secretary notified EPA that Alexa Sandoval from NM Department of Game and Fish needed help responding to reports of wildlife covered with yellow sludge. EPA immediately connected NM Fish & Game with Barry Forsythe, US Fish & Wildlife Service. NM Fish & Game is sending up one biologist and two game

wardens to assess the situation today and will follow up with USFWS. The USFWS has requested EPA contract with a wildlife rehabilitator to assist with cleaning any animals. USFWS will provide capture and oversight of the operations for the state.

**From:** Zito, Kelly

**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2015 10:19 AM

**To:** Smith, Paula; Purchia, Liz; Harris-Bishop, Rusty; Yogi, David; Higuchi, Dean; Lee, Monica; Maier, Brent; Gray, David; Blumenfeld, Jared; Kao, Jessica; Keener, Bill; Strauss, Alexis

**Cc:** Manzanilla, Enrique; Allen, HarryL

**Subject:** Region 9 update - GKM Response

Here's the latest information on R9 activities.

Kelly

### **EPA Region 9 Activities**

On Saturday (Aug. 8) the President of the Navajo Nation declared a State of Emergency for the San Juan River valley. On Sunday, the President and his staff toured the Gold King Mine Site. R9 PIO Rusty Harris-Bishop escorted the President on the tour. The President and his staff then attended the community meeting in Durango.

The discharge has moved quickly and was observed near Kirtland, NM. Navajo officials have reacted quickly, assessing their well fields and drinking and irrigation water intake systems and issuing a precautionary "do not use" public service announcement regarding water from potentially impacted sources. Region 9 held a conference call Sunday with Navajo Nation EPA (NNEPA) and Navajo Department of Public Safety.

Region 9 has deployed an On Scene Coordinator (OSC) to the Durango Incident Command Post to coordinate Navajo field activity updates and results with Region 8 and ensure command messages get back to Navajo officials. The Region has also deployed a Public Information Officer (PIO) to participate in a Joint Information Center (JIC), presently in Durango, with and other the affected Federal, State, County and Tribal agencies.

The Navajo EPA surface water monitoring program (Shiprock Office) collected water and sediment samples from the San Juan River - prior to the spill impact. Region 9 has provided 6 START contractors to coordinate and conduct increased sample collection and lab analysis in

conjunction with NNEPA. This joint EPA/NNEPA river sampling program has commenced focusing on the San Juan between Shiprock/Hogback, NM area and Mexican Hat, UT and will continue for the foreseeable future.

A Region 9 OSC will report to Farmington on Monday to assist. NNEPA also requested drinking water sampling support immediately for Navajo operated water intakes. NNEPA and USEPA drinking water experts agreed to inventory and assess water sources including private wells and intakes.

Region 9 will be providing assistance to Navajo NTUA (utilities) to deliver water to the areas impacted by the Gold King Mine Spill - starting with the Montezuma Creek area. NTUA is sourcing the water from their Sweetwater wells and filling up the service tanks in the affected areas. The ERRS contractor will be providing assistance in the transportation of these waters.

Two Community Involvement Coordinators (CICs) arrived in Farmington on Sunday. The CICs will partner with NNEPA and NN Department of Public Safety to ensure comprehensive outreach to all affected Navajo Chapters. The CICs have begun working with local Navajo Chapter officials and will participate in public meetings at Aneth and Oljato on 8/10.

Sent from my iPhone